Villa Medici Film Festival Unveils Its Program

6th edition, September 16–20, 2026 in memory of Lili Hinstin

Over 40 screenings in 5 days featuring films by: Majid Al-Remaihi, Marwa Arsanios, Rosa Barba, Louidgi Beltrame, Lizzie Borden, Maeve Brennan, Lukas Dhont, Zar Amir Ebrahimi, Koji Fukada, Amandine Gay, Gessica Généus, Beatrice Gibson, Arthur Harari, Radu Jude, Daria Kim, Mariia Lapidus, Fanny Liatard, Natalie Musteata, Phill Niblock, Romain Rampillon & Feda Wardak, Aura Satz, Céline Sciamma, Lorenzo Silvestri, Alexandre Singh, Sanaz Sohrabi, Fanny Texier, Jérémy Trouilh, Ana Vaz, Dean Wei, Olivia Wilde.

VILLA MEDICI

Since its inception in 2021, the Villa Medici Film Festival has been exploring the links between film and contemporary art, with particular attention to new kinds of cinematic discourse. The sixth edition of the festival, from **September 16 to 20, 2026**, aims to adopt a groundbreaking approach by encouraging encounters between pluralistic works that question, revolutionize, deflect, or re-enchant our relationship with images.

This year's festival is dedicated to the memory of **Lili Hinstin** (1977–2026), a woman of the cinema, festival programmer and artistic director, who began her career at Villa Medici as a film programmer from 2005 to 2010. She then directed the Entrevues Belfort Film Festival, before becoming artistic director of the Locarno Film Festival from 2018 to 2020, and then programming director of the Biarritz International Film Festival – Nouvelles Vagues starting in 2023. At the same time, she supported the creation of the Villa Medici Film Festival, serving as a member of its selection and organizing committee until her passing.

With over 40 screenings across five days, an outdoor screening every evening, and encounters with international filmmakers and artists, the festival has become a gathering place for the most contemporary ideas and practices in moving image. Resolutely diverse, it welcomes a wide range of narratives without geographical or formal constraints, bringing together artists' films, essays, fiction, documentaries, short, medium, and feature-length films.

The festival is made up of three sections: the **international competition**, with twelve recent films of all genres and lengths mixed up together, the **Focus** program, with artists' films out of competition, jurors' picks and special meetings with the filmmakers, and finally the **gala evenings in the Piazzale**, with open-air screenings of previews and restored classics.

This year's jury embodies that spirit of openness, combining three personalities from different backgrounds: French-Iranian actress, producer, and director **Zar Amir Ebrahimi**, Italian artist **Rosa Barba**, and Romanian filmmaker **Radu Jude**. They will award two prizes: the *Villa Medici Prize for Best Film* and the *Special Jury Prize*. These awards, endowed with 5,000 and 3,000 euros respectively, also offer the filmmakers the opportunity of a residency at Villa Medici. Along with the jury, the festival brings together a community of filmmakers and cinephiles at Villa Medici, who meet to foster collective thinking about cinema and its lines of development.

The festival in brief

- 5 days of festival in the historic spaces of Villa Medici
- 12 films in competition
- 3 cinemas, including one outdoor screen with room for up to 500 viewers every evening
- Nearly 40 screenings of international films
- 2 prizes awarded at the end of the festival: a best film prize and a special jury prize
- Nearly 4,000 spectators to the 2025 festival
- A selection of books about film in partnership with the 7L Bookshop
- Numerous meetings with filmmakers and artists

The program

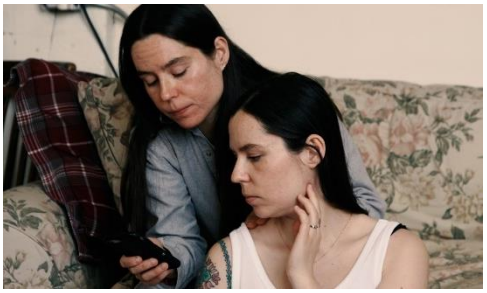
The 12 films in competition

***1937*, Daria Kim**
2025, Uzbekistan, 16’
Work commissioned by the Uzbekistan Art and Culture Development Foundation (ACDF) for the Bukhara Biennial 2025
Rome premiere

1937 traces the forced deportation of Korean communities from the Russian Far East to Central Asia, ordered by Stalin in 1937. The film brings to life paintings created by deported artists (the Koryo-saram), drawn from the Nuron collection in Tashkent (Uzbekistan).

Daria Kim is a multidisciplinary artist whose practice spans performance, sculpture, video, installation, sound, painting, and drawing, connecting material experimentation, memory, and diasporic histories.

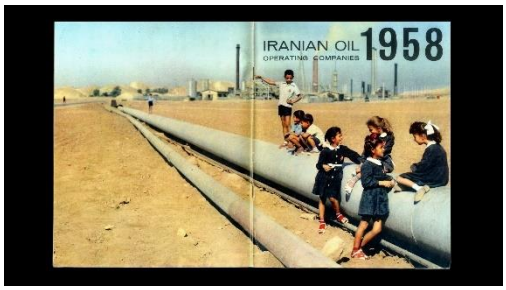
***A WOMAN’S PLACE IS EVERYWHERE*, Fanny Texier**
2026, France, United States, 22’
Production: Colorful Films
Italian premiere



Following the sudden death of their artist mother, twins Emilija and Ona face eviction from their Williamsburg apartment in Brooklyn, where they have lived for over thirty years thanks to rent control.

Fanny Texier is a documentary filmmaker, director of photography, and editor. Born in Paris, she lives and works in Brooklyn. Her latest short film, *A Woman’s Place Is Everywhere*, made its world premiere at the Berlinale, where it was awarded the Silver Bear Jury Prize.

***AN INCOMPLETE CALENDAR*, Sanaz Sohrabi**
2026, Canada, Iran, Turkey, Venezuela, 77’
Production: Studio Bardasht, Fol Films, Universidad Central de Venezuela, Nuri Cem Erbak, Cenk Ünalerzen
Rome premiere



An obscure vinyl record, *Rhymes and Songs for OPEC*, recorded in 1980 for the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries, serves as the starting point for the film. From this artifact, the film uncovers a story in which oil becomes a political instrument supporting Palestinian liberation and Pan-Arab solidarity during the 1960s and 1970s.

Sanaz Sohrabi is an artist-filmmaker and researcher based in Montreal. Through cinema, she explores resource sovereignty and postcolonial ecologies in the Global South. *An Incomplete Calendar* (2026) was presented at Cinéma du Réel.

***AT NIGHT*, Beatrice Gibson**
2026, France, United Kingdom, 87’
Production: Somesuch
Italian premiere

In a neon-lit Paris, six women wander through the night, confiding their dreams, desires, and anxieties. Around them, night workers and insomnia-bound spirits cross the city in search of answers.

Beatrice Gibson’s work combines fiction and documentary, exploring forms ranging from experimental autobiography to the thriller. Her previous short film was presented at the Directors’ Fortnight (*Quinzaine des Cinéastes*) in Cannes in 2019. *At Night* received the Best Emerging Director Award at the Locarno Film Festival 2026.

***HANABI*, Ana Vaz**
2026, France, Brazil, 105’
Production: tambores, a noite & Les Volcans
Italian premiere

Shot in Japan over ten years, *Hanabi* adapts with wild radicality Yoko Hayasuke’s *Journal of a Radioactive Brain*, written four years after the tsunami and nuclear disaster triggered by the 2011 Tōhoku earthquake.

Ana Vaz is an artist and filmmaker whose film-poems oppose constant experimentation to the poetic forms of contemporary cinema, revealing the destructive practices of colonial modernity. She was a fellow at Villa Medici in 2024-2025. *Hanabi* received a Special Mention at the Locarno Film Festival 2026.

***JUSQU’OÙ LA FORÊT*, Romain Rampillon & Feda Wardak**
2026, France, 76’
Production: Avant la Nuit, Le Grand Gardon Blanc
World premiere

On the outskirts of Paris, in Seine-Saint-Denis, a forest resists a major redevelopment project. Pedro and Sapa, two teenagers recently arrived in France, search there for a lost freedom, while figures and stories emerge of those who once inhabited it.

Romain Rampillon is a director of photography, filmmaker, and producer. His work explores changing landscapes, interspecies relationships, and seasonal rhythms.

Feda Wardak is an architect-builder and independent researcher. Co-founder of the Aman Iwan platform, he conducts research on territories and local dynamics.

***MARIE MADELEINE,* Gessica Généus**
2026, France, Haiti, Belgium, Luxembourg, Canada, 104’
Production: SaNoSi Productions, Ayizan Production, Stenola Productions, Bidibul, Metafilms
Italian premiere

In Jacmel, Haiti, Marie Madeleine earns a living through sex work. She crosses paths with Joseph, a young evangelist. A relationship develops between these two opposites. As Joseph's faith wavers, Marie Madeleine draws him into a world where desire and the pursuit of freedom make anything possible.

Gessica Généus is a Haitian actress, filmmaker, and producer. She founded Ayizan Production to support and produce cinema made in Haiti. Her documentary *Douvan jou ka leve* (2017) received awards at several festivals. Her feature film *Freda* (2021) gained acclaim at Cannes, cementing her importance in Caribbean cinema.

***NATURAL STATE*, Majid Al-Remaihi**
2025, Qatar, France, 7’
Production: Le Fresnoy - Studio national des arts contemporains, Tourcoing
World premiere

In 1972, during the final days of the Dhofar War in the Arabian Peninsula, an antelope escapes from a British army convoy in the midst of a looting operation. Its flight becomes an allegory for the end of a dream and the violence of the imperial enterprise.

Majid Al-Remaihi is a filmmaker and artist from Doha, Qatar. His work highlights the invisible connections between history, power, and society. His film *And Then They Burn the Sea* was presented at Locarno in 2021. Since 2019, he has served as a programmer at the Doha Film Institute.

***THE APPLE DOESN’T FALL...*, Dean Wei**
2026, China, 19’
Production: NOWNESS China, THE O EYE
Italian premiere

Inside a house, a father, a mother, and a teenage daughter each follow their own routine, passing by without ever truly connecting. A choreographed film-theater piece combining contemporary dance and handscroll paintings to observe a family trapped in its rituals.

Born in Germany, Dean Wei is a graduate of the Beijing Film Academy. Now based in Beijing, he is a director, composer, and director of photography. His previous film, *Ke wai huo dong* (*Extracurricular Activity*), co-directed with Xu Yidan, was selected for the Berlinale Shorts 2025 competition for Best Short Film.

***THE SECOND SKIN*, Mariia Lapidus**
2026, United States, Mexico, 62’
Production: Sonnet
Italian premiere

A raw blend of stop-motion, performance, and documentary rehearsals brings to life the testimonies of sexual violence survivors. Three women directors transform trauma into a shared act of resistance, memory, solidarity, and hope.

Mariia Lapidus is an author, director, and activist. She trained in filmmaking at VGIK and CalArts in California. Her short film *The City of the Sun* received an award at the Visions du Réel festival. *The Second Skin* was awarded the Tiger Award at the International Film Festival Rotterdam in 2026.

***TUTTI FRUTTI*, Céline Sciamma**
2026, France, 40’
Unreleased film directed as part of the "Où en êtes-vous ?" collection initiated by the Centre Pompidou
Production: Lilies Films, Centre Pompidou
Italian premiere

Since she began shooting her own images independently with her own tools, Céline Sciamma has accumulated an intimate archive. Edited back-to-back, these fragments—ranging from AI to ASMR, from activism to the Adèle Haenel trial—form a video diary and an essay on what images are becoming today.

A screenwriting graduate of La Fémis, Céline Sciamma directed her first feature, *Water Lilies* (*Naissance des pieuvres*), in 2007, followed by *Tomboy* (2011) and *Girlhood* (*Bande de filles*, 2014). Alongside her directing, she works as a screenwriter, notably for *My Life as a Zucchini* (*Ma vie de courgette*, 2016) and André Téchiné's *Being 17* (*Quand on a 17 ans*). In 2019, *Portrait of a Lady on Fire* (*Portrait de la jeune fille en feu*) won the Best Screenplay award at Cannes.

***YOUTH YOUTH YOUTH*, Lorenzo Silvestri**
2025, Italy, 2’
Production: Lorenzo Silvestri

Regarding *Youth Youth Youth*, the artist states: "When I was ten years old, my father told me that his best friend, in his youth, had committed suicide while wearing a suit so that his parents would not have to bear the cost of preparing the body for the funeral."

Lorenzo Silvestri is a multidisciplinary artist based in Rome. His practice gives shape to a body of references and expressive languages drawn from his personal experience.

The Focus section

Alongside the official competition, the festival presents the *Focus* section, structured around *Cartes Blanches*, *Contrechamp* screenings and Special screenings. The *Cartes Blanches* screenings are entrusted to the jury members, who are invited to create a dialogue between their own work and that of other artists, or to explore a specific theme through a curated film selection. The *Contrechamp* screenings offer a cross-perspective between works by current residents and films—whether documentaries or fiction—from cinematic heritage or contemporary creation.

Cartes blanches and Special screenings

These selections by the members of the jury – **Zar Amir Ebrahimi, Rosa Barba** and **Radu Jude** –make it possible to share special moments with films linked to their activities as artists, filmmakers, authors, or curators. This year, a second Special Screening is dedicated to the memory of Lili Hinstin.

Radu Jude, Special screening

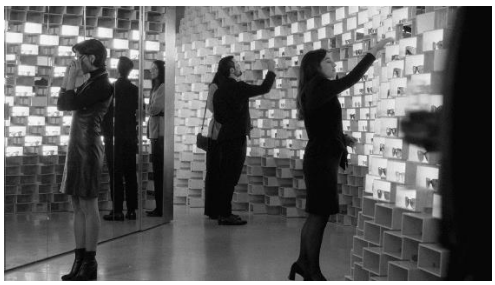
***LE JOURNAL D'UNE FEMME DE CHAMBRE*, Radu Jude**
2026, France, Romania, 94'

Gianina, a young Romanian domestic worker in Bordeaux, spends her evenings rehearsing Octave Mirbeau's *The Diary of a Chambermaid* (*Le Journal d'une femme de chambre*) with an amateur theater troupe. While taking care of her employers' son, her own daughter grows up far away from her in Romania. The pain of this separation softens as Christmas approaches, buoyed by the promise of a reunion.

The screening will be preceded by a discussion in the presence of Radu Jude.

Zar Amir Ebrahimi, Carte blanche

***TWO PEOPLE EXCHANGING SALIVA*, Alexandre Singh, Natalie Musteata**
2024, France, United States, 36'
Production: Misia Films

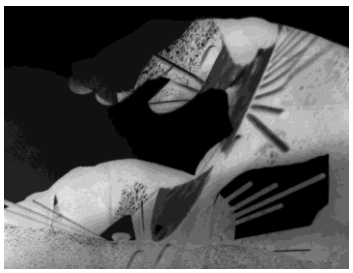


In a society where kissing is forbidden and transactions are settled with slaps, *Two People Exchanging Saliva* follows Angine, an unfulfilled woman whose fascination with a mischievous saleswoman raises the suspicions of a jealous colleague.

The screening will be preceded by a discussion in the presence of Zar Amir Ebrahimi.

Rosa Barba, Carte blanche

***THE MAGIC SUN*, Phill Niblock**
1966-1968, United States, 17’
Production: Phill Niblock



Restored by the Centre Pompidou, *The Magic Sun* (1966–1968), made with Sun Ra and his Arkestra, was screened at Carnegie Hall in New York in 1968. Abstract figures, dark spots, and blinding flashes: a free excursion into the outer reaches of sound and sight.

***I’VE HEARD STORIES*, Marwa Arsanios**
2008, Lebanon, 4’

An animated short film, *I’ve Heard Stories* revisits the murder of a politician at the Carlton Hotel, a now-demolished modernist building in Beirut. Marwa Arsanios overlays pop excerpts, archival material, and line drawings to bring to light a buried memory of the city.

***INSIDE THE OUTSET: EVOKING A SPACE OF PASSAGE*, Rosa Barba**
2021, Cyprus, Italy, Germany, 31’
Production: Point Centre for Contemporary Art

Inside the Outset: Evoking a Space of Passage explores the geopolitical memory and divided landscapes of Cyprus. The film intertwines aerial views of the UN-monitored buffer zone with underwater footage capturing submerged archaeological remains.

The screening will be preceded by a discussion in the presence of Rosa Barba.

Special Screening in Memory of Lili Hinstin

***BORN IN FLAMES*, Lizzie Borden**
1983, France, United States, 80’
Production: Lizzie Borden

In a near-future New York, ten years after a "social-democratic war of liberation," promises of equality remain unfulfilled. The suspicious death of Black activist Adelaide while in police custody drives women across races, classes, and sexualities to take action and lead their own counter-revolution. The film follows four intersecting factions of women: the self-defense group Women’s Army, the editorial board of the newspaper *Socialist Youth Review*, and the pirate radio stations Phoenix Radio and Radio Ragazza.

Contrechamp screenings

The Contrechamp screenings section involves setting up a dialogue between films, contemporary or historical, with particular attention to works by artists and filmmakers in residence at Villa Medici.

Contrechamp Louidgi Beltrame / Maeve Brennan

***LA HUACA LLORA, CON LAS VOCES,* Louidgi Beltrame, fellow at Villa Medici**
2024, France, 53'

A set of four videos forms the installation *The Huaca Weeps* (*La huaca pleure*). Pebbles gathered along the banks of a river in the Vosges, the Doller, and lengths of kraft paper recalling the color of the Peruvian desert create a setting to display the videos.

Louidgi Beltrame develops a practice at the intersection of cinema and contemporary art. Represented by the Jousse Entreprise gallery, his work is regularly exhibited in major institutions, international biennials, and festivals such as Cinéma du Réel. Louidgi Beltrame's residency project at Villa Medici takes place in 2026-2027.

***AN EXCAVATION*, Maeve Brennan**
2022, United Kingdom, 20'
Production: Commissioned by Stanley Picker Gallery, Kingston University with support from Arts Council England and Aarhus Museum for Ancient Art.

An Excavation documents the investigation led by two archaeologists, Christos Tsirogiannis and Vinnie Nørskov, into a series of vases found in crates at the Geneva Free Port.

Maeve Brennan is a British artist and filmmaker based in London whose work explores the historical and political resonance of materials and places. Through moving image and installation, she exhumes buried histories to reveal the invisible structures that shape our contemporary environment.

The screening will be preceded by a discussion in the presence of Louidgi Beltrame.

Contrechamp Amandine Gay

***UNE HISTOIRE À SOI*, Amandine Gay, fellow at Villa Medici**
2021, France, 100'
Production: CG CINÉMA, BRAS DE FER

Anne-Charlotte, Joohee, Céline, Niyongira, and Mathieu were born in Brazil, Sri Lanka, Rwanda, South Korea, or Australia. Through their stories and archives, they recount the intimate and political history of international adoption.

Amandine Gay divides her time between filmmaking, writing, and social advocacy. Director of the documentaries *Speak Up* (*Ouvrir la voix*) and *A Story of One's Own* (*Une histoire à soi*), she is also the author of several essays, including *Une poupée en chocolat* and *Vivre, libre*. Amandine Gay's residency project at Villa Medici takes place in 2026-2027.

The screening will be preceded by a discussion in the presence of Amandine Gay.

Contrechamp Aura Satz / Valentine Umansky

***PREEMPTIVE LISTENING*, Aura Satz**
2024, United Kingdom, Finland, 89'
Production: LONO Studio

At a time when political, human, and ecological disasters intersect, *Preemptive Listening* is an ode to sirens—those that exist and those that have yet to be invented. Bringing together siren compositions by 20 contemporary musicians, the film poses a question: must an alarm always be alarming?
Presented in partnership with the Auditorium Parco della Musica (Rome).

Aura Satz is an artist and filmmaker based in London whose work combines film, sound, performance, and sculpture, focusing on sound technologies and ways of listening. She has exhibited and screened her works at Tate, the Hayward Gallery, MoMA, and the Sydney Biennale. *Preemptive Listening* is her first feature-length film.

Valentine Umansky's residency project at Villa Medici takes place in 2026-2027. She is a curator and author serving as Curator of Moving Image and Acquisitions at Tate Modern in London, where she notably co-curated the Ana Mendieta retrospective and several collection displays.

The screening will be preceded by a discussion in the presence of Valentine Umansky and Aura Satz.

The Piazzale Evenings

From Wednesday, September 16 to Sunday, September 20, an exceptional open-air screening takes place every evening on the Piazzale, between the gardens and the historic facade of Villa Medici, allowing the public to discover a recent film, a preview, or a cinema classic in a restored version.

The full program is available on the website www.villamedici.it.

***THE UNKNOWN WOMAN (L'INCONNUE)*, Arthur Harari**
2026, France, Italy, 139'
Production: To Be Continued and Bathysphère
With Léa Seydoux, Niels Schneider, Valérie Dréville, Lilith Grasmug and Radu Jude

David Zimmerman is almost 40 years old; he is a photographer, but no one knows it. While he almost never leaves his home, friends drag him to a wild party. There, he notices a woman in the crowd, cannot take his eyes off her, and follows her... A few hours later, David wakes up: he is inside the body of the unknown woman.

***COWARD*, Lukas Dhont**
2026, Belgium, France, Netherlands, 120'
Production: The Reunion
With Emmanuel Macchia, Valentin Campagne, Jonas Wertz and Jef Jacobs

1916, Belgian front, World War I. Pierre joins the troops, eager to prove his worth. Behind the lines, Francis puts on shows to boost the soldiers' morale. As the fighting rages on, each seeks to escape, if only for a moment, the horror of war.
Presented in official competition at the 2026 Cannes Film Festival, *Coward* earned the Best Actor award for its two lead actors, Emmanuel Macchia and Valentin Campagne.

***NAGI NOTES,* Koji Fukada**
2026, Japan, France, Singapore, Philippines, 110’
Production: HASSAKU LABS CO., LTD.
With Takako Matsu, Shizuka Ishibashi, Kenichi Matsuyama
Italian premiere

Yuri, a divorced architect, visits her former sister-in-law, the sculptor Yoriko, in the village of Nagi. As she poses for her, buried memories resurface. As the days go by, far from Tokyo, Yuri gradually allows herself to be won over by the gentleness of rural life.

***THE GREEN EYES (LES YEUX VERTS),* Fanny Liatard, Jérémy Trouilh**
2026, Belgium, France, Sweden, 85’
Production: June Films, Haut et Court
With Anamaria Vartolomei, Sayyid El Alami, Douae Butarbuch Mzaouki
Italian premiere

11-year-old Chaya lives with her family in the Landes region, by the ocean. Upon news of their eviction, her older brother Nour falls into a deep and mysterious sleep. Chaya will do whatever it takes to wake him, even diving into his dreams to find him.

***THE INVITE,* Olivia Wilde**
2025, United States, 107’
Production: Annapurna Pictures, FilmNation Entertainment and Permut Presentations.
With Seth Rogen, Olivia Wilde, Penélope Cruz, Edward Norton

Joe and Angela’s marriage is hanging by a thread. One evening, the couple invites their enigmatic upstairs neighbors, Pína and Hawk, over for dinner. What promised to be a simple evening between neighbors gradually slips into unexpected territory—at the risk of reigniting the flame, or shattering everything to pieces.

The 2026 Jury

Zar Amir EBRAHIMI

Zar Amir Ebrahimi is a French-Iranian actress, director, and producer. Born in Tehran in 1981, she began her career in Iranian theatre and television before being forced into exile in 2008 and settling in France. She won international recognition for her role in Ali Abbasi's *Les Nuits de Mashhad* (*Holy Spider*), which earned her the Cannes Film Festival Award for Best Actress in 2022. The following year, she co-directed the film *Tatami*, presented at the Venice Mostra, with Guy Nattiv, while pursuing her activity as a producer committed to supporting Iranian artistic creation. A key voice in contemporary auteurist cinema, she places her art and her fame in the service of freedom of expression and women's rights.

Rosa BARBA

Rosa Barba is an Italian artist and filmmaker. She works at the intersection of film, sculpture, and installation, exploring the material and poetic conditions of cinema. Using film stock, light, and sound, she interrogates cinematographic devices and the way they construct our perception of time, space, and knowledge. Her work also focuses on landscapes and human transformations, interpreted as markers of contemporary political changes. She is internationally renowned and her work has been exhibited in major institutions, including MAXXI in Rome, MoMA in New York, the Centre Pompidou in Paris, Tate Modern in London, and the Neue Nationalgalerie in Berlin, as well as in several biennials. She showed her work, notably, at Villa Medici in 2022 in the context of Art Club #36.

Radu JUDE

Radu Jude is a director and screenwriter. A major figure in the Romanian New Wave, his films explore social and political dynamics, the contradictions of the contemporary world, and the grey areas of collective memory. His work, infused with caustic irony, has been selected and acclaimed at the most important international festivals, particularly Cannes, Toronto, and Rotterdam. He won the Golden Bear at the Berlin Festival in 2021 for *Bad Luck Banging or Loony Porn*, the Special Jury Prize at the Locarno Film Festival in 2016 for *Scarred Hearts*, and the Silver Bear for Best Director at Berlin in 2015 for *Aferim!*.

The 2026 Selection Committee

Every year, a committee selects the films in competition, adopting an approach that is as open as possible to diversity of practices and authors, be they filmmakers or visual artists. For the 2026 festival, the selection committee is made up of **Mathilde Henrot**, **Clément Postec**, **Nicolas Raffin**, and **Valentine Umansky.**

Mathilde Henrot is a film programmer, producer, and co-founder of the Festival Scope platform. Active in the independent film industry and international festivals for over fifteen years, she contributes to the distribution and promotion of films among professionals all over the world. Her expertise has led her to collaborate with top-flight institutions and festivals, from the Locarno and Sarajevo Selection Committees to that of the Berlinale.

Clément Postec is an artistic director, exhibition curator, and filmmaker. A graduate of Sorbonne Nouvelle University, the Institut d'Études Politiques de Strasbourg and Sciences Po (SPEAP), he has been involved for over ten years in developing projects at the intersection of film and contemporary art and in deploying cultural spaces and organizations.

Nicolas Raffin is a film programmer based in London and director of the film department at the Institute of Contemporary Arts (ICA) (2018–26). In recent years, he has launched important initiatives in response to the ever-changing landscape of film distribution, redefining particularly the ICA's film programming around new series such as *Off-Circuit*, *Long Takes* and *Celluloid Sunday*. He has recently supervised major retrospectives devoted to Marguerite Duras, Hong Sangsoo, and Jacques Rivette.

Valentine Umansky is a curator at Tate Modern in London, having previously worked for several visual arts institutions. Between 2015 and 2020, she held positions in the United States at the International Center of Photography, the Museum of Modern Art, and the Contemporary Arts Center in Cincinnati. Both an exhibition curator and an author, she is one of the 2026–27 Villa Medici Fellows.

The Festival Organizing Committee

Mathilde Henrot, programmer and founder of Festival Scope
Laurent Perreau, author and film director
Sam Stourdzé, director of the French Academy in Rome – Villa Medici

With the Villa Medici team
Fulvia Gallo, coordinator of the 2026 Villa Medici Film Festival
Clotilde Parlos, cultural project manager at the French Academy in Rome – Villa Medici

With the collaboration of **Véronique Terrier-Hermann**, art historian, for the programming of the Focus section.

In memory of **Lili Hinstin**, who participated in every edition of the Film Festival as a member of the selection and organizing committees.

Past Editions

2025

Jury: Alain Guiraudie, Guslagie Malanda and Anri Sala
Awards

- Best Film Award: *LLOYD WONG, UNFINISHED* by Lesley Loksi Chan (2025, Canada, 29')
- Special Jury Prize:*COMMENT ÇA VA ?* by Caroline Poggi and Jonathan Vinel (2025, France, 31')

2024

Jury: Clément Cogitore, Vimala Pons, Rasha Salti
Awards

- Best Film Award: *PEPE* by Nelson Carlo de Los Santos Arias (2024, Dominican Republic, Namibia, Germany, France, 123')
  with a special mention for *FAMILIAR TOUCH* by Sarah Friedland (2024, United States, 90')
- Special Jury Prize: *REAL* by Adele Tulli (2024, Italy, France, 90')
  with a special mention for *MAN NUMBER 4* by Miranda Pennell (2024, United Kingdom, 9')

2023

Jury: Alice Diop, Cyprien Gaillard, Chiara Parisi
Awards

- Best Film Award: *MON PIRE ENNEMI* by Mehran Tamadon (2023, France, 81')
- Special Jury Prize: *EL AUGE DEL HUMANO 3* by Eduardo Williams (2023, Argentina, Portugal, Brazil, Netherlands, Taiwan, Hong Kong, Sri Lanka, Peru, 121') with a special mention for *BANEL & ADAMA* by Ramata-Toulaye Sy (2023, France, Senegal, Mali, 87')

2022

Jury: Marie Losier, Pietro Marcello, Sylvain Prudhomme
Awards

- Best Film Award: *LE CHAMP DES MOTS* by Rania Stephan (2022, Lebanon, 70')
- Special Jury Prize: *GIGI LA LEGGE* by Alessandro Comodin (2022, Italy, France, Belgium, 102')

2021

Jury: Teresa Castro, Mati Diop, Béla Tarr
Awards

- Best Film Award: *INSIDE THE RED BRICK WALL* by Hong Kong Documentary Filmmakers collective (2020, Hong Kong, 88')
- Special Jury Prize: *EL GRAN MOVIMIENTO* by Kiro Russo (2021, Bolivia, France, Qatar, Switzerland, 85')

Previous festivals in pictures

Lili Hinstin, 2023 Festival

Paolo Sorrentino and JR, 2024

Anri Sala, Guslagie Malanda, Alain Guiraudie and Sam Stourdzé, 2025 Festival

Leos Carax and Lili Hinstin, 2023 Festival

Mathieu Amalric, 2021 Festival

Vimala Pons, Clément Cogitor and Rasha Salti, 2024 Festival

Sam Stourdzé, Mati Diop Béla Tarr, 2021 Festival

Alice Diop, 2025 Festival

The French Academy in Rome – Villa Medici

Founded in 1666 by Louis XIV, the French Academy in Rome – Villa Medici is a French institution housed since 1803 at the Villa Medici, a 16th-century villa surrounded by a seven-hectare park and located on Mount Pincio, in the heart of Rome. A national public institution under the authority of the Ministry of Culture, the French Academy in Rome – Villa Medici currently fulfills three complementary missions: hosting high-level artists, creators, and art historians in residence for long stays of one year or shorter periods; developing a cultural and artistic program that spans all fields of art and creation and targets a broad audience; and preserving, restoring, studying, and making known to the public its built and landscape heritage as well as its collections.

The French Academy in Rome – Villa Medici is directed by Sam Stourdzé.

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

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The French Academy in Rome – Villa Medici is an institution of the Ministry of Culture

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